

MiFluFocus
December 29, 2005
Weekly Influenza Surveillance

Michigan Disease Surveillance System: After several weeks of relatively constant levels of flu-like illness, the last reporting week of the year reveals a considerable increase in activity. This is similar to the level seen in the second week of January in the previous flu season. Flu-like illness levels will be unstable for the next couple of weeks, as schools are closed for the holiday break

Emergency Department Surveillance: The increase in emergency department visits due to respiratory complaints suggested last week has indeed been confirmed, with a substantial upward trend. The number of respiratory visits is comparable to the same period from last year. Emergency Department visits due to constitutional complaints have also increased, with a fairly dramatic jump in activity reported throughout the week. The level is now approaching that seen from this period last year. In addition to an overall upward trend, statewide alerts were also generated from the emergency department surveillance system this past week for both respiratory and constitutional syndromes. These are the first statewide alerts for flu-like disease indicators of the season.

Over-the-Counter Product Surveillance: For the first time, over-the-counter product sales seem to be consistent in showing an increase in flu activity. While antifever and cough/cold medication sales appeared to be relatively constant, all other product sales were increased. Of the latter, while an overall increase in trend was seen for nasal products, larger spikes in activity were seen for adult and pediatric cold relief, electrolytes, and thermometers. A similar spike in chest rub sales was also suggested, although this indicator is more unstable due to the effect of store promotions on this product. While sales of adult cold relief products are still lower than those seen from last year, all other indicators are comparable to, or increased from, the same period last year.

Sentinel Surveillance (as of December 29, 2005): Influenza sentinel providers across the state are reporting 0.2% of office visits are due to influenza-like illness (ILI) for the week ending December 24, 2005. This represents continued low-level activity overall. Sentinel laboratories are reporting a few positive tests across the state.

Community or Facility-Based Outbreaks (as of December 29, 2005): None reported.

MDCH Laboratory Surveillance (as of December 29, 2005): There have been 8 total influenza cases confirmed at MDCH Laboratories this season, 6 last week, none this week. All are H3N2.

National: During week 50 (December 11 – December 17, 2005), influenza activity continued to increase mostly in the southwestern United States. The proportion of patient visits to sentinel providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) was above the national baseline. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was below the baseline level. One state reported widespread influenza activity; 5 states reported regional influenza activity; 2 states reported local influenza activity; 33 states, New York City and the District of Columbia reported sporadic influenza activity; and 9 states reported no influenza activity.

International Activity (WHO, December 22): Overall influenza activity remained low during Week 49. Several countries in the Northern Hemisphere are reporting a slight increase in activity.

MDCH reported **SPORADIC** activity to the CDC for this past week ending **12/24/2005**.

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Avian H5N1 Influenza Update

WHO Pandemic Phase (December 22, 2005): **3**

Table 1. H5N1 influenza-avian: (December 23, 2005) Avian/poultry outbreaks have occurred in multiple countries.

(Source: downloaded 12/29/05, http://www.oie.int/downld/AVIAN_INFLUENZA/graph_HPAI_01122005.pdf)

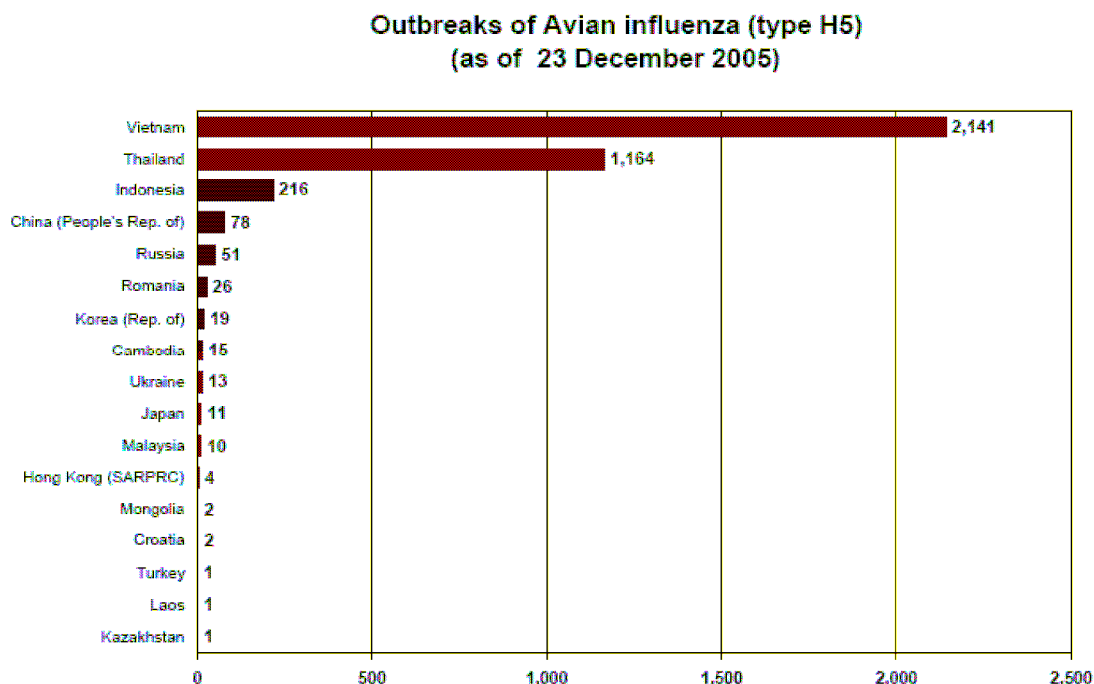


Table 2. H5N1 influenza-human: (December 23, WHO) A total of 135 WHO-confirmed cases of human H5N1 from 5 countries have been documented. There are no human cases documented outside of SE Asia.

Total number of cases includes number of deaths.
WHO reports only laboratory-confirmed cases.

(Source: Downloaded 12/29/05

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2005_12_07/en/index.html)

23 December 2005

Date of onset	Cambodia		China		Indonesia		Thailand		Viet Nam		Total	
	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths
2003	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3
2004	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	12	29	20	46	32
2005	4	4	6	2	16	11	5	2	61	19	92	38
Total	4	4	6	2	16	11	22	14	93	42	141	73

Total number of cases includes number of deaths.
WHO reports only laboratory-confirmed cases.

